

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish ~~establishing~~ a trust with trust units, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining ~~where the number of shares is defined as~~ a share ratio; and

accessing information stored in a database for periodically:

(a) ~~computing the price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a the period and the current values of the underlying bond and the~~ one or more equity security shares;

(b) determining a predetermined threshold price based on a par value of the trust units ~~unit~~ at maturity;

(c) comparing the ~~computed~~ price of the trust units ~~unit~~ to the predetermined threshold price;

(d) determining ~~making~~ a distribution to ~~unit~~ holders of the trust units ~~based on the comparison,~~ the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units ~~unit~~ and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

(e) adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein the number of equity security shares in the distribution is based on ~~the~~ current share price and a ~~the~~ difference between the computed price of the trust units unit and the predetermined threshold price.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing information stored in the database for ~~the step of~~ reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising accessing information stored in the database for ~~the step of~~ reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing information stored in the database for ~~the step of~~ making a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the said final payment comprising ~~the~~ face value of the bond [.] less administrative expenses.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing program comprises a computer software product of claim 9 comprising an Excel spreadsheet program.

11. (currently amended) A computer-based system for administering financial instruments, comprising:

a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program including:

means for periodically computing the price of trust units in a trust, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity shares defining where the number of shares is defined as a share ratio, and where the price of the trust units being are based on the share ratio for a the period [,] and current values of the underlying bond and the equity security shares;

means for comparing the computed price of the trust units unit to a predetermined threshold price;

means for determining making a distribution to unit holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units unit and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

means for adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the means for comparing determines a difference between the computed price of the trust units unit and the predetermined threshold price, and the means for determining making a distribution

distributes equity security shares, where the number of equity security shares in the distribution is based on the current share price and the difference.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the processing program comprises ~~further comprising~~ means for reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the processing program comprises ~~further comprising~~ means for reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

16-24 (canceled).

25. (currently amended) A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising the steps of:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish ~~establishing~~ a trust with trust units, each unit representing an interest in a fixed-income security that has a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining ~~where the number of shares is defined as a~~ share ratio; and

accessing information stored in a database for periodically;

computing ~~the~~ price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a ~~the~~ period, the current values of the ~~underlying~~ fixed-income security and the one or more equity security shares;

comparing the computed price of the unit to a predetermined number, wherein the ~~said~~ predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity;

determining ~~making~~ a distribution to ~~unit~~ holders of the trust units ~~based on the comparison~~, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units ~~unit~~ and performance payments that are paid in equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

adjusting the share ratio of the units to reflect the distribution.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A computer-based method, comprising the steps of:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program receiving a selection of ~~selecting~~ an equity security based on expectations for long-term capital appreciation; ~~selecting and a selection of~~ a long-term bond issue having a fixed maturity date and a predetermined face value; and creating a trust having units, each unit representing an interest in ~~one a of the~~ selected long-term bond issue ~~bonds~~ and a predetermined number of shares of a ~~the~~ selected equity security, the ~~said~~ number of shares of the selected equity security defining ~~being defined as~~ a share ratio, the trust being

associated with an account administrator having access to information about the ~~erated~~ trust and about customer ~~customers'~~ accounts indicating ownership interest in the trust units; and

accessing information stored in a database for periodically;

determining a current value of the ~~trust~~ units using current market information about the selected long-term bond and the selected equity security ~~underlying securities~~;

determining ~~distributing~~ payments to ~~said~~ customer accounts based on a ~~the~~ difference between the current ~~unit~~ value and a predetermined number ~~threshold price~~, wherein the ~~said~~ predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity and the ~~said~~ payments include cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the ~~equity security~~ shares of the selected equity security of the unit and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

adjusting the share ratio of the units to reflect the payments.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the equity security is selected from among large-cap stocks.

30. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the long-term bond issue is a U.S. Treasury STRIP.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein a ~~the~~ term for the long-term bond issue is between 20 and 30 years.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein ~~the period for determining~~ the value of trust units is based on a quarterly period.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the performance payments include a number of equity security shares based on ~~the~~ current share price and a ~~the~~ difference between the computed price of the unit and the predetermined threshold number price.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 further comprising accessing information stored in a database for adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the ~~distributed~~ an excess number of distributed shares.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing information stored in a database for ~~the step of~~ reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35 further comprising accessing information stored in a database for ~~the step of~~ reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units by combining equity security distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing information stored in a database for the step of making a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the said final payment comprising a ~~the~~ face value of the bond[,] less administrative expenses.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein ~~the step of~~ creating a trust includes developing an ~~Excel~~ a spreadsheet ~~program~~ with entries corresponding to trust units and customer accounts.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 39 further including accessing a database accessible by the account administrator for storing information about the trust units and the customer accounts ~~in a database accessible by the account administrator.~~

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ comparing the price of the trust units to the predetermined threshold price comprises determining a price difference between the computed price of the trust units ~~unit~~ and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, ~~the amount of~~ the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, ~~the amount of~~ the distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.



42. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for comparing determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units ~~unit~~ and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

43. (currently amended) The system of claim 25, wherein ~~the step of comparing the~~ computed price of the unit to a predetermined number determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units ~~unit~~ and the predetermined number ~~threshold price~~ and where:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 28, wherein:

- (i) if the difference between the current ~~unit~~ value of the units and the predetermined number ~~threshold price~~ is less than zero, each payment is equal to a minimum amount;
- (ii) if the difference between the current ~~unit~~ value of the units and the predetermined number ~~threshold price~~ is more than zero, each payment includes an excess value payment equal in value to the difference in value; and

(iii) if the difference between the current ~~unit~~ value of the units and the predetermined number ~~threshold price~~ is more than zero and less than a minimum amount, each payment includes a supplemental value payment equal to the difference between the minimum amount and the excess value payment.